

1/12/2011

HB-198 EMINENT DOMAIN

Before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Deregulation we had the lowest priced electricity in the region, now we have the highest priced electricity in our region..!

Energy companies said Deregulation would lower electric costs, but it did the exact opposite.. They knew it would not work when they proposed it to the Montana legislature.

Why reward them by allowing them to use Eminent Domain statutes, haven't they already done enough damage to the state and our country..?

"EMINENT DOMAIN" is intended to be used by Public Utilities which no-longer exist thanks to the Energy Industry.

To allow anyone the right to condemn private property using "EMINENT DOMAIN" statutes other than a "PUBLIC Utility" should not be allowed, in any form, least of all those involved with Deregulation..!

I understand people are looking at increased revenues realized by new transmission lines running through the state to out of state markets, but if past repeats itself, the new revenues gotten will not keep pace with increased energy costs the state experiences.

Other proposed transmission lines allow Canadian companies and others to take private property from Montana's citizens for their use at our expense. This is wrong...

Allowing transmission lines built to serve other parts of the country where energy costs more than ours, does nothing to reduce our high energy costs. This will lead to even higher costs Montana's will pay for their electricity as producers see more money selling to California than to Montana..!

Montana already does not use or need over 80% of the electrical energy produced currently. PSC staff have stated last year these new proposed power corridors will lead to increased energy costs for Montanan's.

This is a BAD bill and I ask that you table this as written or amend this to prohibit energy companies from using "EMINENT DOMAIN" in any form.

Thank you.

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